Dear Jim,

12/1/81

Between affidavitting, getting all the firewood up to the house and under the overhang and just plain loafing by reading for fun for a change I've gotten behind in correspondence. Now that I've unloaded the most recent affidavit I'm catching up.

As usual, we enjoyed your letter of the 5th much, particularly spelling out that I'm sure you did for Howard and his associate, one of the things I had in mind when I made the suggestion to Howard. (I've heard nothing from him since before he went to the hospital and I've not gotten the copies of Oswald in New Orleans he'd gotten for me.)

While I do know what can make me any kind of expert, I think that simple common sense should indicate exactly what you say about artistic control. (Didn't I mention that to you? Hope so.) I can't imagine the Chinese not exercising at the very least enough to avoid being embarrassed. But as I remember it Howard seemed to think, or said that his people think, this was no more than something the Chinese could raise in order to avoid raising other objections that would be of more consequence.

I did write Howard after he was hospitalized but he is silent.

Newest news from the Hartford Courant front: they've fired my friend who sent the story from the regular staff in Hartford but are keeping him on as a correspondent. This followed a 40-inch piece to commemorate on 11/22, used and subject of much praise. The explanation given has nothing to do with that. He missed a police story he should not have missed, first booboo, too. I don't have the story. Just learned yesterday.

Nothing new on Marina. I suppose she's backed out, which suits me, although I'd rather have proceeded with that simple request for tax records. I can't lay court and wouldn't if I could.

I recall the name Jessamyn West but do not recall her article on Marina and kids.

Not much new here. Drought breaks today, when I'm without car for three days while body work is being done. Good, soaking rain lasting all day. We've had one light snow and it hasn't gotten below 20 any night yet. At this rate my wood will ne enough for the season. If it gets colder, may not be enough.

My cold was light and cleared up fast but Lil finally did go to the doctor, who gave her an antibiotic, which did the job. She's also had a trip up to Wilmington to see my mother (91 in February) who is just out of hospital from something her doctor did not expect her to survive. She's doing fine and not now thinking of even a rest home, which she can't do anyway because the pension and Social Security she gets are a few bucks over maximum permitted, at least in Delaware. Remarkably tough woman!

Things are nice and quiet. We were given an exceptionally good and large turkey by a friend who raises a few for himself and friends. (If he gets a deer, his wife told us yesterday, he'll work up half for us.) It was so large Lil had to measure to see if it would fit into oven. Over 14x19" or a big one.

Nothing new in FOIA cases because when the courts follow the line you see in the papers that isn't new and it is happening. The only hope for saving the Act is the House, where indications are that no amendments will leave the committee. Maybe there will be some kind of rider.

All the best from us both,